



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JOSEPH MAN INDICTED FOR OBSCENITY, ENTICING A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a St. Joseph, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for enticing a minor to engage in illegal sexual conduct.

Ricky L. Jones, 44, of St. Joseph, was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** used a Yahoo! Internet chat room between Sept. 27 and 28, 2004, to entice a minor to engage in prohibited sexual activity that could be charged as a criminal offense, that is, the felony of attempted statutory rape in the second degree.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Jones** used Yahoo! Instant Messenger on Sept. 27 and 28, 2004, to transfer obscene matter to a minor under the age of 16. The indictment alleges that the visual depictions transferred by **Jones** offended the contemporary standards of the community and were used for the purposes of enticing a minor to engage in sexual conduct.

Counts Three and Four of the federal indictment are forfeiture counts, which would require **Jones** to forfeit to the government a Gateway desktop computer and an Ezonics web cam, which were used to commit the violations alleged in Counts One and Two.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was

investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow